

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5 JUL 1. A method of organizing and sharing Internet links, electronic files and  
hardcopy documents, the method comprising:

enabling a user to enter comments about an Internet link;

5 storing the entered comments about the Internet link and a URL of the  
Internet link in an Internet link record in a database;

associating the Internet link record with a category or an item;

enabling the user to enter comments about an electronic file;

10 storing the entered comments about the electronic file and a file access  
path of the electronic file in an electronic file record in the database;

associating the electronic file record with a category or an item;

enabling the user to enter comments about a hardcopy document;

15 storing the entered comments about the hardcopy document and a  
location of the hardcopy document in a hardcopy document record in the  
database;

associating the hardcopy document record with a category or an item;

and

20 making the Internet link record, the electronic file record, and the  
hardcopy document record accessible to other users that use the database,

wherein the Internet link record, the electronic file record, and the  
hardcopy document record can be associated with a same category or a same  
item.

25 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein enabling a user to enter comments  
about an Internet link comprises enabling the user to enter a summary in a description  
field of the Internet link record, and enabling the user to enter other comments in a notes  
field of the Internet link record.

30 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein enabling a user to enter comments  
about an electronic file comprises enabling the user to enter a summary in a description  
field of the electronic file record, and enabling the user to enter other comments in a  
notes field of the electronic file record.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein enabling a user to enter comments about a hardcopy document comprises enabling the user to enter a summary in a description filed of the hardcopy document record, and enabling the user to enter other comments in a notes field of the hardcopy document record.

5 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein an item is associated with a category.

6. The method of Claim 5, further comprising:

enabling the user to designate categories in the database as shared or not shared;

10 making Internet link records, electronic file records, and hardcopy document records associated with the shared categories accessible to other users that use the database; and

making Internet link records, electronic file records, and hardcopy document records associated with the items that are associated with the shared categories accessible to other users that use the database.

15 7. The method of Claim 1, wherein a category can be associated with another category.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein an item can be associated with one or more categories.

20 9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising enabling the user to associate the Internet link record with another category or another item.

10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising enabling the user to associate the electronic file record with another category or another item.

11. The method of Claim 1, further comprising enabling the user to associate the hardcopy document record with another category or another item.

25 12. The method of Claim 1, wherein one or more Internet link records, one or more electronic file records, and one or more hardcopy document records can be associated with a same category or a same item.

13. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

30 enabling the user to designate Internet link records in the database as shared or not shared;

enabling the user to designate electronic file records in the database as shared or not shared;

enabling the user to designate hardcopy document records in the database as shared or not shared; and

5 making the shared Internet link records, the shared electronic file records, and the shared hardcopy document records available to other users that use the database.

14. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

10 enabling the user to designate fields of Internet link records in the database as shared or not shared;

enabling the user to designate fields of electronic file records in the database as shared or not shared;

enabling the user to designate fields of hardcopy document records in the database as shared or not shared; and

15 making the shared Internet link record fields, the shared electronic file record fields, and the shared hardcopy document record fields available to other users that use the database.

15. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

20 enabling the user to designate items in the database as shared or not shared; and

making Internet link records, electronic file records, and hardcopy document records associated with the shared items accessible to other users that use the database.

25 16. The method of Claim 1, further comprising generating a report of at least a portion of the Internet link records, electronic file records, and hardcopy document records stored in the database.

17. The method of Claim 16, further comprising printing at least a portion of a web page identified by the stored URL of a Internet link record, and printing the stored entered comments of the Internet link record.

18. The method of Claim 16, further comprising printing at least a portion of a file identified by the stored file access path of a electronic file record, and printing the stored entered comments of the electronic file record.

19. A database that facilitates the organizing and sharing of Internet links, electronic files and hardcopy documents, the database comprising:

category records, wherein a category can be a sub-category of another category;

Internet link records storing at least the URL, associated categories and user-entered comments of each of a plurality of Internet links;

electronic file records storing at least the file access path, associated categories and user entered comments of each of a plurality of electronic files; and

hardcopy document records storing at least the location, associated categories and user entered comments of each of a plurality of hardcopy documents,

wherein an Internet link record, an electronic file record, and a hardcopy document record can be associated with a same category.

20. The database of Claim 19, wherein each of the category records further stores a shared or not shared designation of the category, wherein Internet link records, electronic file records, and hardcopy document records associated with a not shared category are accessible to the user that created the category, and wherein Internet link records, electronic file records, and hardcopy document records associated with a shared category are accessible to the user that created the category and accessible to other users that use the database.

21. The database of Claim 19, wherein each of the Internet link records further stores a shared or not shared designation of the Internet link, wherein not shared Internet link records are accessible to the user that created the not shared Internet link records, and wherein shared Internet link records are accessible to the user that created the shared Internet link records and accessible to other users that use the database.

22. The database of Claim 19, wherein each of the electronic file records further stores a shared or not shared designation of the electronic file, wherein not

shared electronic file records are accessible to the user that created the not shared electronic file records, and wherein shared electronic file records are accessible to the user that created the shared electronic file records and accessible to other users that use the database.

5           23.    The database of Claim 19, wherein each of the hardcopy document records further stores a shared or not shared designation of the hardcopy document, wherein not shared hardcopy document records are accessible to the user that created the not shared hardcopy document records, and wherein shared hardcopy document records are accessible to the user that created the shared hardcopy document records and  
10           accessible to other users that use the database.

          24.    The database of Claim 19, wherein the database is a relational database.

          25.    The database of Claim 19, wherein the database is an object-oriented database.

          26.    A method of organizing and sharing Internet links and electronic files,  
15           the method comprising:

                  enabling a user to navigate to an Internet link using a web browser;

                  enabling the user to enter notes about the Internet link;

                  storing the entered notes about the Internet link and a URL of the  
Internet link in a database;

20                    associating the Internet link with a category;

                  enabling the user to enter notes about an electronic file;

                  storing the entered notes about the electronic file and a file access path of  
the electronic file in the database;

                  associating the electronic file with a category; and

25                    making the stored Internet link and the stored electronic file available to  
other users that use the database,

                  wherein the Internet link and the electronic file can be associated with a  
same category.

          27.    The method of Claim 26, further comprising enabling the user or another  
30           user to navigate to the Internet link by issuing a command on the stored Internet link.

28. The method of Claim 26, further comprising enabling the user or another user to open the electronic file by issuing a command on the stored electronic file.

29. A database that facilitates the organizing and sharing of Internet links and electronic files, the database comprising:

5 category records, wherein a category can be a sub-category of another category;

Internet link records storing at least the URL, associated categories and user entered notes of each of a plurality of Internet links; and

10 electronic file records storing at least the file access path, associated categories and user entered notes of each of a plurality of electronic files,

wherein an Internet link record and an electronic file record can be associated with a same category.

30. The method of Claim 29, wherein the database is a relational database.

15 31. The method of Claim 29, wherein the database is an object-oriented database.

32. A method of organizing and sharing Internet links and hardcopy documents, the method comprising:

enabling a user to navigate to an Internet link using a web browser;

enabling the user to enter notes about the Internet link;

20 storing the entered notes about the Internet link and a URL of the Internet link in a database;

associating the Internet link with a category;

enabling the user to enter notes about a hardcopy document;

25 storing the entered notes about the hardcopy document and a location of the hardcopy document in the database;

associating the hardcopy document with a category; and

making the stored Internet link and the stored hardcopy document available to other users that use the database,

30 wherein the Internet link and the hardcopy document can be associated with a same category.

33. A database that facilitates the organizing and sharing of Internet links and hardcopy documents, the database comprising:

category records, wherein a category can be a sub-category of another category;

Internet link records storing at least the URL, associated categories and user entered notes of each of a plurality of Internet links; and

hardcopy document records storing at least the location, associated categories and user entered notes of each of a plurality of hardcopy documents,

wherein an Internet link record and a hardcopy document record can be associated with a same category.

34. A method of organizing and sharing electronic files and hardcopy documents, the method comprising:

enabling a user to navigate to an electronic file using a computer;

enabling the user to enter notes about the electronic file;

storing the entered notes about the electronic file and a file access path of the electronic file in a database;

associating the electronic file with a category;

enabling the user to enter notes about a hardcopy document;

storing the entered notes about the hardcopy document and a location of the hardcopy document in the database;

associating the hardcopy document with a category; and

making the stored electronic file and the stored hardcopy document available to other users that use the database,

wherein the electronic file and the hardcopy document can be associated with a same category.

35. A database that facilitates the organizing and sharing of electronic files and hardcopy documents, the database comprising:

category records, wherein a category can be a sub-category of another category;

electronic file records storing at least the file access path, associated categories and user entered notes of each of a plurality of electronic files; and

hardcopy document records storing at least the location, associated categories and user entered notes of each of a plurality of hardcopy documents, wherein an electronic file record and a hardcopy document record can be associated with a same category.

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